# EPI Update for Friday, December 3, 2010 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

### Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Handling pertussis exposure in vaccinated health care providers
- Use of masks around patients with cough illness
- Guidance on influenza antiviral drug use for the 2010-2011 season
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

## Handling pertussis exposure in vaccinated health care providers (HCPs)

Pertussis is increasing in Iowa, and it is predicted to continue increasing. Some Iowa health care providers have already been exposed multiple times.

Of primary importance is the use of appropriate masks in the presence of a patient with a cough illness. This will prevent exposure from occurring.

Until studies are completed on the risk of vaccinated HCPs developing pertussis after exposure, IDPH recommends one of the following actions (these assume that the exposed HCP has been vaccinated with Tdap in the last five years):

- 1) Require post-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis or
- 2) Ensure daily monitoring by medical personnel (specifically trained in early symptoms of pertussis) before each work shift and for 20 days after exposure, for any symptoms consistent with pertussis, followed by immediate appropriate action.

HCPs working with patients at high risk for severe disease are recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis after each exposure.

If a health care provider has **not** been recently vaccinated against pertussis, does **not** wear a mask appropriately and is exposed to pertussis, post-exposure antibiotic prophylaxis is recommended after each exposure.

For more information, visit <a href="www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/pertussis.asp">www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/pertussis.asp</a> or call 800-362-2736. Also see CDC's Preventing Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis Among Adults: Use of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid and Acellular Pertussis Vaccine at <a href="www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5517a1.htm">www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5517a1.htm</a>.

#### Use of masks around patients with cough illness

As flu season is starting and pertussis is increasing, the recommendations for use of surgical or procedure masks and respirators when around patients with a cough illness has been updated. These recommendations will be posted soon on IDPH's website at <a href="https://www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx">www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Default.aspx</a> under both influenza and pertussis.

## Guidance on influenza antiviral drug use for the 2010-2011 season

Antiviral medications against influenza viruses are important for the prevention and control of influenza. CDC has recently posted the revised guidance on the use of influenza antiviral drugs for the 2010-2011 influenza season. For detailed information, visit <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm">www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/antivirals/summary-clinicians.htm</a>.

**Meeting announcements and training opportunities** None.

Have a healthy and happy (although a bit cool and snowy)! Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology lowa Department of Public Health 800-362-2736